

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01934 311036Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 310908Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3331

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 1934

EXDIS

FOLLOWING ASMARA 261, SENT ACTION ADDIS ABABA 30 MAR 77,
H/W REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE:

S E C R E T ASMARA 0261

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, ET, US
SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS FOR CLOSURE OF KAGNEW STATION

REF: STATE 068802

1. ACCORDING TO THE 1953 AGREEMENT ON MILITARY FACILITIES IN
ETHIOPIA, THE CLOSURE OF KAGNEW STATION IS NOT A MATTER FOR UNI-
LATERAL DECISION AND IMPLEMENTATION. REFTEL COMMENTS ON DECISION
AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CLOSURE OF KAGNEW STATION FAIL TO ACCOUNT
FOR TIME PERIOD REQUIRED BY EMBASSY/CONGEN TO REACH SATISFACTORY
AGREEMENT WITH EPMG REGARDING SPECIFIC MODALITIES OF CLOSURE.
(CLOSURE IS CLEARLY DISTINCT IN NATURE FROM PREVIOUS PHASEDOWNS.)
DECISION TO CLOSE KAGNEW CANNOT BE "QUICKLY IMPLEMENTED" WITHOUT
ENDANGERING LIVES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY OF NAVY, CISCO, AND
PA&E COMPONENTS. TO ENSURE AN ORDERLY WITHDRAWAL, THE REMOVAL OF
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THAT EQUIPMENT DOD WISHES TO RETAIN AND TO GUARANTEE THE
PERSONAL SAFETY OF KAGNEW PERSONNEL, WE WILL NEED
TIME TO REACH FULL AND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ACCORD WITH
EPMG AUTHORITIES BOTH IN ADDIS AND ASMARA TO SAFEGUARD AMCITS
AND USG PROPERTY DURING PROCESS OF CLOSURE. SPECIFICALLY, IF KAGNEW
CLOSURE WERE TO BEGIN BEFORE APPROPRIATE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS
WERE CAREFULLY WORKED OUT AND NAILED DOWN WITH EPMG AUTHORITIES,

I WOULD EXPECT TROOPS TO MOVE IN QUICKLY, AND PROBABLY DISORDERLY, TO APPROPRIATE WHATEVER THEY CAN GET THEIR HANDS ON. ELABORATE TIME-TABLE FOR EVACUATION NOW BEING PREPARED BY USN WOULD PROMPTLY GO DOWN THE DRAIN AND LITTLE IF ANYTHING WOULD BE SALVAGED. DEPARTMENT SHOULD RECALL THAT EPMG TROOPS PROVIDE THE ONLY SECURITY NOW AVAILABLE TO KAGNEW STATION. MOREOVER, ONE SECTION OF KAGNEW (TRACT E) IS CO-LOCATED ON COMPOUND WITH SECOND DIVISION. WE WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATE PROTECTION DURING CLOSEDOWN IF EPMG FAILS TO ACCEPT THIS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ON TERMS WE BOTH CAN LIVE WITH. MOREOVER, TIMETABLE FOR AIR EVACUATION OF PERSONNEL AND SUPPLIES MUST BE CAREFULLY WORKED OUT WITH EPMG TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE FLIGHT SCHEDULES ARE AGREED TO BY EPMG.

2. AS NOTED IN ASMARA 0257, PARA 4, BY TERMS OF OUR 1953 AGREEMENT, CLOSURE OF KAGNEW MUST BE NEGOTIATED. I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT EVERY POSSIBLE DETAIL MUST BE PATIENTLY HAMMERED OUT WITH EPMG AUTHORITIES PRIOR TO THE FIRST MOVE TO EVACUATE, OTHERWISE WE WILL BE IN DEEP TROUBLE JUST TRYING TO PROTECT PEOPLE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY LET ALONE THE CLASSIFIED AND SALVAGEABLE EQUIPMENT INTENDED FOR USE ELSEWHERE.

3. IN ESTIMATING TIME REQUIRED TO NEGOTIATE MODALITIES WITH EPMG, DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE LAPSE OF MORE THAN THREE MONTHS, WITH VIRTUALLY NO PROGRESS, SINCE EMBASSY BROACHED SUBJECT OF SETTLEMENT OF ONE OF THE KEY ELEMENTS IN THE CLOSURE STILL TO BE RESOLVED--THE OUTSTANDING RENTS AND UTILITIES CHARGES DUE TO AND OWED BY KAGNEW. UNLESS THIS LONG-STANDING AND IRKSOME PROBLEM IS RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY PRIOR TO A DECISION TO IMPLEMENT CLOSURE, EPMG AUTHORITIES ARE QUITE LIKELY TO SEIZE ALL RPT ALL SECRET

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KAGNEW ASSETS AND PERHAPS PERSONAL PROPERTY AS RECOMPENSE.

4. KAGNEW IS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON GOODWILL AND SUPPORT OF EPMG AUTHORITIES IF IT WISHES TO SHIP OUT EQUIPMENT. WE EXIST IN MARTIAL LAW ENVIRONMENT AND TROOPS, ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE, ARE ACCUSTOMED TO SEIZE ANY FIXED OR MOVEABLE PROPERTY TO FURTHER THEIR WAR EFFORT. DESTRUCTION OF THE CLASSIFIED AND OTHER SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT IS NOT A FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE. AT SUCH TIME AS DESTRUCTION OF ANY ITEM BECOMES APPARENT TO THE SOLDIER GUARD STAFF, VIOLENCE IS LIKELY TO ERUPT AND THE LIVES OF THE REMAINING PERSONNEL PLACED IN JEOPARDY. DISPOSITION OF ALL PROPERTY, THAT TO BE REMOVED, THAT TO BE DESTROYED, AND THAT TO BE LEFT BEHIND, MUST BE CAREFULLY WORKED OUT WITH EPMG WELL AHEAD OF TIME.

5. CONGEN INFORMED DEPARTMENT (ASMARA 0179-STADIS) OF OUR BELIEF THAT LOCAL EPMG AUTHORITIES AND ESPECIALLY TROOPS EXPECT TO INHERIT KAGNEW AND MOST IF NOT ALL RPT ALL OF ITS EQUIPMENT. TO AVOID EXCEEDINGLY MESSY DEVELOPMENTS AND TO KEEP OUR PLANS ON TRACK AS WE WANT THEM, IT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT WE REACH AS PER-

FEET AGREEMENT AS POSSIBLE WITH EPMG BEFORE WE MAKE ANY MOVE
WHATSOEVER TOWARD IMPLEMENTING CLOSURE.

6. ITEMS NEEDING RESOLUTION WITH EPMG INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT
CONFINED TO, OUTSTANDING RENTS AND DEBTS, DISPOSITION OF MOVEABLE
EQUIPMENT, FUEL STOCKS, VEHICLES, STORES AND SUPPLIES, DISTRIBUTION
OF EXCESS PROPERTY, TIMETABLE OF INCOMING AND OUTGOING PERSONNEL,
AND ROUND-THE-CLOCK PROTECTION FROM PILFERAGE BY THE TROOPS
THEMSELVES DURING THE CRITICAL REMOVAL PERIOD.

7. REQUEST FROM DEPARTMENT AS DETAILED A CHECKLIST AS POSSIBLE,
DRAWN FROM EXPERIENCE OF MILITARY CLOSURES IN OTHER COUNTRIES,
OF MATTERS REQUIRING NEGOTIATION AND RESOLUTION WITH HOST
GOVERNMENT, KEEPING IN MIND THAT OUR MAJOR DANGER IN THIS
EXERCISE IS FROM THE GUARDS PROVIDED BY THAT GOVERNMENT.
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